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For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON FEVERS.

AS fever is at present very prevalent in your town, and some neighbouring places, I think you might profitably occupy a corner in your miscellany with the following Rules to prevent the spreading of infectious fevers. I likewise recommend you to publish the address lately circulated, previous to the charity sermon preached in the parish church of Belfast on the 5th of March last, for the benefit of the Fever Hospital and Dispensary. As the remarks are so excellent and of a general tendency as to the prevention of contagion, it would be wrong to confine them within the circle in which they were originally published. By diffusing them more generally, you may confer a public benefit, by showing the necessity of establishing Houses of Recovery in cases of fever in other places. A PHILANTHROPIST.

Rules to prevent infectious fevers.

It may be proper to observe that the poison of a putrid fever, in a small, close, and dirty room, affects a very great proportion of mankind, not less than 26 out of 27, or a still greater proportion; but, in a large, airy, clean apartment, even putrid fevers are seldom or ever infectious. When this poisonous vapour is mixed with fresh air it is not hurtful. From an attentive consideration of numerous facts, relative to this distemper, have been formed the following rules:

1. As safety from danger entirely depends on cleanliness, and fresh air, the room-door of the patient, ill of an infectious fever, especially in the habitations of the poor, should never be shut, a window in it during the day, ought to be frequently opened. Such regulations would be highly useful to the patient and purses: but are particularly important previous to the arrival of any visitor.

2. The bed-curtains should never be close drawn round the patient, but only next the light to shade the face.

3. Dirty clothes, utensils, &c. should be frequently changed, immediately put into cold water, and washed clean, when taken out of it.

4. All discharges from the patient

should be instantly removed. The floor near the patient's bed rubbed clean every day.

5. The air in a sick room has, at the same time, a more infectious quality in some parts of it than in others. Visitors and attendants should avoid the patient's breath; the air which ascends from his body, especially if the bed curtains be closed, and the vapours arising from all evacuations. When medical or other duties require a visitor to be placed in these situations of danger, infection may be frequently prevented by holding in the breath.

6. Visitors should not go into an infectious chamber, with an empty stomach, and in doubtful circumstances on coming out, they should blow from the nose, and spit from the mouth, any infectious poison, which may have been drawn in by the breath.

ADDRESS TO THE INHABITANTS OF BELFAST.

THE managing Committee of the DISPENSARY and FEVER HOSPITAL, from an experience of several years, in the public utility of these Establishments, call upon the Inhabitants of Belfast for a continuance of support and encouragement. The Committee make this call with confidence, from a conviction, that an Institution which has deserved so well the patronage of the Public, will not now be considered as a subject of mere casual and precarious bounty, but rather worthy of permanent and habitual protection. It is no longer an experiment to be tried, but an Establishment to be maintained.

Motives of humanity, and of self-interest, unite in securing the permanence of an Institution, which has hitherto drawn forth the judicious liberality of the Inhabitants. Every Man, for his own sake, every Father, for the sake of his family, must be willing to contribute something to an assurance from the spread of Fever, as he would from the ravages of Fire; and it is the object of the Hospital to extinguish Fever in its first sparks, before it spreads, from neglect, uncleanness, or mismanagement, through the family, then through the neighbourhood, and, at length, by the necessary intercourse of society, in